JCB Notes
3-7-63

Interview with Dr. Arthur Grollman, Professor of Pharmacology, University of Texas, Southwestern Medical School, on February 23, 1963, in Dallas.

At the close of the M. D. Anderson Virus Symposium in Houston (February 22, 1963), Mr. Holtzman and I went up to Dallas to see Dr. Grollman, who had been recommended to us by Dr. Rigdon as a possible expert in the defense of the lung cancer cases. (See report of interview with Rigdon of February 21.)

We talked to Dr. Grollman for several hours. Neither of us was terribly impressed with Dr. Grollman's potentialities as a defense witness.

Dr. Grollman is in his late 50's or early 60's, I would say. He is not tall, somewhat stout, wears glasses and has a rather ragged drooping mustache.

He has the somewhat shaggy appearance popularly attributed to the "professor".

He is principally engaged now in the field of internal medicine. He sees patients on the wards and trains graduate students (largely) in internal medicine.

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He seems to have been in and out of many fields and has written a textbook on pharmacology and therapeutics. He told us of a number of cases that he had been in as a witness. These were principally in cases dealing with the effects of drugs and their properties. He was extremely critical of the lawyers in on these cases principally because they did not prepare well (in his opinion) and he had trouble making them understand what he viewed as the principal points in the case.

He has not been very much concerned with the problem of smoking and lung cancer. He did seem inclined to accept the proponent's thesis, apparently chiefly on the ground that human factors are involved in cancer and no one can see what the causes of any cancer are. He mentioned some additional points -- problems of accuracy in the certification of deaths, problems of how real the reported increase might be, and the like -- but in so general a way that it struck me he was simply imparting to us what he might have learned from Rucker.

We explained our concern about obtaining witnesses for the defense of the Oklahoma City action. He said that Mr. Rucker had mentioned it to him. We wondered if he knew any one at the University of Oklahoma that might possibly be a witness for the

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defense. He said that good medical men were rather hard to come by in Oklahoma. He mentioned a surgeon, a Dr. Shelley (?), who he said was a smoker and therefore ought not to be against us. He also mentioned a Dr. Wolff who is fanatical on the subject of psychosomatic medicine and attributes everything to psychosomatic causes.

We asked him if he knew of any one at the Southwestern Medical School that might be worth talking to. He said that most people there did not express views on the subject one way or the other because it only lead to extreme emotional arguments.

He noted that a Dr. William Miller who specialized in lung physiology at Southwestern was a rabid anti-tobacco man. He did not know the views of the current pathologist, a Dr. Ashworth (?). He would be willing, however, to make some discreet inquiries to find out. He knew that the prior pathologist, a Dr. Cardwell (?) had held strong views that smoking contributed to lung cancer.

We asked him if he knew of any work on the subject of smoking and lung cancer going on in his area. (A Dr. Holland of the VA Hospital in Dallas, who lists himself as associated with the Southwestern

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Medical School, is doing a great deal of work on arsenic in cigarette smoke and lung cancer.) Dr. Grollman said he did not know of any. Later, when the subject of arsenic came up in another connection, it did not seem to ring any bell with him.

We asked him if he knew Dr. LeMaistre. He knew of him as Director of the Indigent Tuberculosis Hospital in Dallas. That was all. He recalled that he is on the Surgeon General's Advisory Committee. He then recalled that Dr. Miller had an office with Dr. LeMaistre.

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